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U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT ORDERS BYJU'S TO PAY $1 BN TO DEBTORS

A US court has ordered Byju Raveendran to pay back default amount of $1.16 billion to BYJU's Alpha and US-based lender GLAS Trust LLC

'OWNER FAILED TO COMPLY WITH ORDERS'

The Delaware Bankruptcy Court found that Raveendran failed to comply with its discovery order and continued to be evasive on several occasions. BYJU's Alpha was incorporated when Raveendran was running the management of edtech firm Think and Learn Private Limited. The judgment follows a dispute between Byju's and US based lenders

'NOT ALLOWED TO PRESENT VALID DEFENCE'

- The court said it found Raveendran's behaviour had a strategic pattern of willful failure to comply with its orders
- Raveendran's counsel said it is a default judgment, meaning the court issued it without Byju being permitted to present its defence, and instead deprived Byju of a valid defence

$10K

A DAY IS PENALTY THAT RAVEENDRAN PAYS TO THE U.S. COURT

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

50p per kid/day for veggies! That's what Anganwadis get

ASHWINI M SRIPAD
@ Ramanagara (Bengaluru South)

"WE have 11 children at our centre and the government gives us 50 paise per child per day for vegetables which translates to Rs 5.50 per day for our centre. What can we possibly buy with this amount? Forget vegetables, we cannot even afford chillies, lemons, or coriander leaves," said Geetha (name changed), an Anganwadi worker at a village in Ramanagara.

The price of an egg too is fixed at Rs 6, while it varies time to time. "Eggs sometimes cost Rs 7.50 per egg and we have been told to give eggs twice a week. But the government won't bear the additional cost. The money is released once every three months," she said.

Anganwadis were started across the country in 1975 under the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) to combat malnutrition among children, expecting mothers and also new mothers. In Karnataka, a pilot project started at T Narasipura taluk in Mysuru with 100 Anganwadis. Today, the state has 69,919 centres, where over 1.2 lakh people are employed as workers and cooks. These centres benefit over 40 lakh children and mothers.

Over the years, the workers have been provided with initiatives and also given many responsibilities.

As Anganwadis celebrate 50 years, *The New Sunday Express* checked the status of these centres, workers and facilities.

"Earlier, we were given green gram, jaggery, varieties of dals, groundnut and other items that helped us make food tasty and healthy. But now, it is limited to rice, tur dal and wheat courses along with milk powder and eggs," Geetha said.

CONTINUED ON P6

An Anganwadi centre on the outskirts of Bengaluru | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

PM Modi @G20: Let's weaken the drug-terror link

Proposes knowledge repository, Africa skills multiplier; global healthcare response team

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for a coordinated global push to dismantle the drug–terror nexus, strengthen health-emergency responses, creation of a Global Traditional Knowledge Repository and accelerate skills development across Africa, in his address to world leaders at the 20th G20 Summit in Johannesburg on Saturday.

In a warning on the rise of lethal synthetic drugs, Modi said: "To overcome the challenge of drug trafficking, especially the spread of substances like fentanyl, India proposes a G20 Initiative on Countering the drug–terror nexus. Let us weaken the wretched drug-terror economy."

The proposed platform, he said would integrate finance, governance and security tools to choke networks that channel narcotics revenue into global terrorism. Further, the PM called for creation of a G20 Global Healthcare Response Team, designed for rapid deployment during natural disasters and public-health emergencies.

"We are stronger when we work together in the face of health emergencies and natural disasters," he said. With Africa hosting the G20 Summit for the first time, Modi said "Now is the right moment for us to revisit our development parameters and focus on growth that is inclusive and sustainable." India also proposed a G20-Africa Skills Multiplier Initiative, aimed at creating 1 million certified trainers in Africa within the next decade.

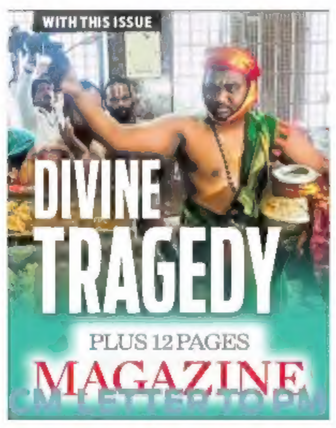
> **We're stronger when we work together in the face of health emergencies and disasters**
>
> Narendra Modi, On setting up of a global healthcare response team

The G20 leaders also adopted a joint declaration addressing terrorism and climate change and broader global challenges on the opening day of the summit. The document was finalised without the US.

Earlier, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa welcomed Modi at the Summit venue with a 'namaste'. Modi was seen interacting informally with global leaders such as UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres among others. P9

THIRD SHORTEST IN ASHES...

Australian batter Travis Head's 69-ball century helped them beat England within two days in the first Ashes Test in Perth | AFP | P13



Will adhere to top brass order, Siddu after Kharge meet

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

AMID intense speculation and swift political developments over change in leadership and a cabinet reshuffle, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah met AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge at the latter's residence here late on Saturday evening.

The duo held one-on-one talks and Kharge is likely to inform LOP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi of the outcome, to take a final call. Rahul, who is abroad, will be returning to Delhi after November 28, according to sources. Any decision on change in leadership or cabinet reshuffle is unlikely anytime soon, according to sources. Siddaramaiah, who has been asserting at public meetings that he will be CM for five years and will present the next budget, looked visibly mellowed after meeting Kharge. CONTINUED ON P4

SIR FALLOUT

Alleged Bangladeshi infiltrators wait to return home, following the special intensive revision (SIR) of poll rolls in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal on Saturday | PTI

UNDER-17 PALESTINIAN TEAM

OF SEEKING SOLACE AND FINDING JOY IN FOOTBALL

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

ON Saturday evening, as the U17 Palestinian men's football team held on to a 1-1 draw against India U17 at the EKA Arena in Ahmedabad, in the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers tournament, they walked off the field with their heads held high. The result may not be what they wanted, but for them reaching Ahmedabad and taking the field itself was a struggle.

Amidst the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine over the last two years or so, sport had taken a backseat. For this team, the preparation had been far from ideal. They did not win any matches at the the West Asian Football Federation's (WAFF) U17 Championship last month.

Out of 23 total players selected, 18 were from West Bank, but only 11 from the region turned up. Several players had their lives uprooted and displaced because of the conflict, losing their documents in the process. Mohammed Joma Suleiman, the team manager, claimed that bringing in the players with Palestinian roots from other countries to their homeland proved to be a big hindrance. "Because of the current situation, we could not bring players to train together, and our preparation was not that good," Suleiman told this daily. "There is a player from Gaza, we cannot bring anyone from Gaza also because of the war and the genocide is happening there (Israel have repeatedly denied any and all accusations of genocide)," he added.

For the team, football is a way of resistance and bringing joy to the kids back home. "They know what it means to carry the Palestinian flag on their crests. Since the start, they know this is a mission and this way, they can share the happiness to Palestinian kids," said Suleiman. P13

DRONE DROPS

Global arms trafficking module tied to ISI busted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

DELHI Police's Crime Branch has busted an international arms trafficking module allegedly linked to ISI-backed arms network with the arrest of four people. They recovered high end Turkiye (PX-5.7) and China (PX-3) made weapons smuggled from Pakistan through drones.

Ten foreign made semi-automatic pistols along with 92 live cartridges were also seized. The seized weapon PX-5.7 is only used by Special Forces.

Police said they got a tip-off on November 19 on a cross-border arms trafficking module involved in supplying sophisticated illegal weapons in Delhi/NCR. It was found that they would come to Rohini to deliver the arms consignment.

A trap was laid in Rohini Sector-28 and four people were apprehended with foreign-made semi-automatic pistols and live cartridges, DCP (Crime) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said. Those arrested are Mandeep Singh (38) Dalvinder Kumar (34), both residents of Punjab; Rohan Tomar (30) and Ajay (37).

The module was involved in smuggling weapons using drones. Yadav said the consignment is dropped at locations near the border, where receivers on the Indian side retrieve them. The network relies on local collaborators who monitor police movement, facilitate pickups, and transport it to safe houses. Payments are routed through hawala channels.

NUCLEAR

SECTOR TO OPEN FOR PRIVATE PLAYERS

A bill seeking to open the civil nuclear sector for private players is among the 10 proposed legislations listed for introduction in the winter session of Parliament, beginning December 1 | P9

EXPRESS READ

K'taka now ranks third in fish production: CM

BENGALURU: Karnataka now ranks third in the country in fish production. India's share of global fish production is about 7.7% and ranks fourth in exports, CM Siddaramaiah said while speaking at 'Matsya Mela 2025' to mark World Fisheries Day in Bengaluru on Satuday P5

Was ready to make you CM, Gowda tells Siddu

BENGALURU: JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda said he was ready to make Siddaramaiah the CM in the past, but Sonia Gandhi chose Dharam Singh. He was reacting to Siddaramaiah's recent statement that he would never have become CM if he had remained in JDS P4

ICAR gags scientists after row over performance of two new GE rice varieties

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) is evolving organisational guidelines for scientists after a recent controversy over data related to genome-edited (GE) rice varieties.

These guidelines restrict scientists from sharing their research findings with the media and journals, this newspaper has learnt. They also direct scientists to avoid publishing any research papers in international journals until they are fully confident about their findings.

It all began after the government on May 4 announced the release of two GE rice lines developed by ICAR — Pusa DST-1 and DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala), which it said "have the potential to bring about revolutionary changes in terms of higher production, climate adaptability, and water conservation". Agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan hailed the effort.

Developing two new GE varieties is an exceptional achievement of ICAR

Shivraj Chauhan

But a platform of scientists, farmer leaders, medical experts, consumer rights activists, and members of the Coalition for a GM-Free India rubbished the claim, citing data mined from ICAR's own All India Coordinated Research Project on Rice for 2023 and 2024. The Coalition said ICAR's own limited data didn't support its published report. ICAR pushed back with a point-by-point rebuttal.

"Seeking research credits, scientists are always in a rush to get their works published, which sometimes are not backed by robust data," said a scientist. "The new fiat will lead to fewer publication of research papers. But it will enhance credibility."

CASH HEIST

Gang in debt planned robbery, ₹6.29cr recovered

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

A gang of unemployed men trapped in debt, mostly due to gambling, sought the help of a current Cash Management Services (CMS) staffer, a former CMS staffer and a police constable, who were also facing financial problems, to execute the biggest daylight heist in the city. They had planned the heist for more than three months, making thorough preparations and avoiding all digital footprints during the post-crime movement of cash.

Annappa Naik, Xavier and Gopi

To ensure the plan succeeded, the gang conducted a recce and communicated in multiple languages to avoid attracting police attention.

However, a team of 200 police personnel cracked the case in 54 hours, arresting six accused and recovering Rs 6.29 crore of the Rs 7.11crore stolen. A search is continuing for three accused who are absconding. The arrested accused have been identified as Gopi (36), a fleet manager with CMS; Xavier (35), a former CMS employee; Annappa Naik, a police constable attached to Govindapura police station in East Division; Ravi, son of an ex-serviceman and the alleged mastermind and operational team head, and his associates Naveen and Nelson. Ravi's brother, who was also involved in the crime, is currently absconding. MORE ON P3

> **Many of the accused are from same locality and had planned the heist in coordination with CMS staff and the police constable in an attempt to "settle their lives"**
>
> Source

The cash recovered from the accused, in Bengaluru | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA